

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 8, 2021

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden Jr.
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Re: Stafford Act Major Disaster Declaration for Ida Impacts in Pennsylvania

Dear President Biden,

This last week has been devastating for many Pennsylvanians – storms, tornados and massive flooding caused loss of life and major damage to homes and property. **Therefore, we ask you to swiftly consider and approve the major disaster declaration request from Governor Wolf. Your action will direct federal support to our communities who desperately need it.**

In the days since Tropical Depression Ida tore across Pennsylvania, federal, state, and local officials have taken measure of the significant human and physical damage. The storm killed at least five residents, knocked out power for 110,000 customers, caused well over \$100 million in damage to public infrastructure, and wrecked many homes. Rainfall amounts shocked lifelong Pennsylvanians. Harrisburg, Altoona, Scranton, Chester, Montgomery, and Bucks counties all recorded record or near record rainfall. This rain fell on already saturated ground and higher than usual waterways—resulting in flooding in rivers and streams across the Commonwealth.

As you know, the Stafford Act authorizes you to approve a request from a governor for federal support for recovery efforts outlined in law. We believe that Pennsylvania qualifies for and needs that support. In anticipation of the hurricane, Governor Wolf signed a proclamation of disaster emergency for the Commonwealth on Tuesday, August 31 – and our county, local elected officials, and volunteers responded quickly by setting up emergency shelters, hotlines, and other resources. We are grateful for their service in getting state resources out quickly.

Nevertheless, now that federal, commonwealth, and local authorities have assessed the damage, it is clear that Pennsylvania needs robust federal assistance to recover. The historic and unprecedented rain and flooding devastated our communities – and we ask that you approve Governor Wolf’s federal relief request as soon as possible. Pennsylvania’s families and communities need to know that the federal government stands with them now.

Thank you for considering this urgent need and request. Please reach out to our offices with any questions. We look forward to your response.

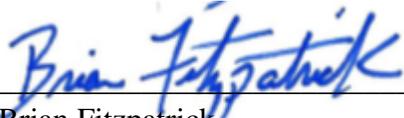
Sincerely,



Madeleine Dean
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

_____/S/_____

Robert P. Casey Jr.
UNITED STATES SENATOR



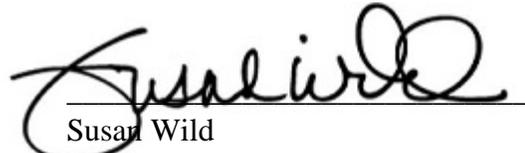
Brian Fitzpatrick
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



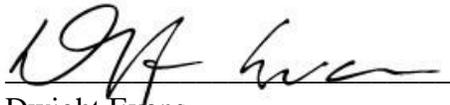
Mary Gay Scanlon
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Matt Cartwright
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



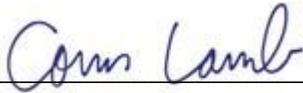
Susan Wild
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



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Mike Doyle
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